PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION International Bureau



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6: WO 96/14081 (11) International Publication Number: A61K 38/18 A1 (43) International Publication Date: 17 May 1996 (17.05.96) PCT/NL95/00370 (81) Designated States: AU, BG, BR, BY, CA, CN, CZ, EE, FI, (21) International Application Number: GE, HU, JP, KR, LT, LV, MD, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RU, SI, SK, UA, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, 26 October 1995 (26.10.95) (22) International Filing Date: FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). (30) Priority Data: **Published** 3 November 1994 (03.11.94) EP 94203205.3 With international search report. (34) Countries for which the regional or Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the AT et al. international application was filed: claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments. (71) Applicant (for all designated States except BOEHRINGER MANNHEIM GMBH [DE/DE]; Sandhofer Strasse 116, D-68298 Mannheim (DE). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): SWAAK, Anthonius, Josef, Gerardus [NL/NL]; Kralingseweg 322, NL-3066 RB Rotter-(74) Agent: SMULDERS, Th., A., H., J.; Vereenigde Octrooibureaux, Nieuwe Parklaan 97, NL-2587 BN The Hague (NL).

(54) Title: USE OF ERYTHROPOIETIN IN THE TREATMENT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

(57) Abstract

A novel use of the known protein Erythropoietin (EPO) and/or a derivative and/or a fragment thereof is disclosed. EPO is used as a pharmaceutical for the treatment of chronic inflammations. A particularly beneficial result is seen in patients suffering from rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Significant effects are seen in clinical variables such as morning stiffness, swollen joints, and the like.